

United Nations
Informal Regional Network
Forum

February 18-20, 2004
Kelowna, BC

Hosted by:
Hope for the Nations
Coordinator for the United Nations-NGO
Informal Regional Network in Canada



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The Event

On February 18-20, 2004, Hope For The Nations will host a forum in Kelowna, British Columbia, inviting all Canadian Non Governmental Organizations with 'Special Consultative Status'.

The main focus of the event will be two one-day sessions. One of these days will be formulating a Canadian response to the topic:

'Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the programme of action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010'

The other day will be open to a much larger group of interested parties and groups. This day will have a speaker conducting a **session on 'Organizational Convergence' i.e. How do many organizations of many stripes and colours work together for a common good (in this case the Millennium Goals).**

This broader day will also contain a **'youth forum' where youth will be invited to come and learn more about the UN and how they can get involved within the UN system.**

United Nations representatives will also speak on the role of the UN, what the Millennium Goals are and where we are currently sitting towards achieving the goals.

The Host

Hope for the Nations (HFTN) is a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) registered with the Canadian, American and British governments.

Hope for the Nations was established out of a deep conviction to meet the needs of destitute children around the world. HFTN began in 1994 with the goal of establishing children's homes in developing countries. The vision was for these homes to become self-sustaining through micro-enterprise projects.

Hope for the Nations is about 'children at risk'. Our long-term vision is to see these children transformed by providing the basic necessities of love, healthcare, education, a healthy community and self-sufficiency. We want to make a difference by starting the process of change.

The Need

We believe that this forum will be good for Kelowna, British Columbia and Canada and will have global repercussions. We are requesting City of Kelowna support for the session through:

- **Any grant money that may be available to help support the event i.e. the City of Kelowna would be recognized as a sponsor or donor.**
- **The Mayor and Council representation at some of the events.**
- **A letter of invitation to Kelowna, from the Mayor, to go into the registration package.**

Special Consultative Status with the United Nations

Hope for the Nations obtained 'Special Consultative Status' in 2002 within the Economic Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

ECOSOC is one of the main organs of the UN. Several high profile bodies fall under its domain e.g. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). **It may be said that ECOSOC is the humanitarian wing of the UN.**

The UN recognizes that NGOs play an important role in interactions between civil society and government.

The United Nations recognizes that NGOs are playing an increasingly important role in forming policies that are changing the world.

“The United Nations once dealt only with Governments. By now we know that peace and prosperity cannot be achieved without partnerships involving Governments, international organizations, the business community and civil society. In today's world, we depend on each other” Secretary-General Kofi Annan

“...we must forge a fundamentally new partnership with civil society. We must reach for a new synthesis between private initiative and the public good, which encourages entrepreneurship and market approaches together with social and environmental responsibility.” Secretary-General Kofi Annan

The Non-Governmental Section of the Department of Economical and Social Affairs (DESA NGO Section) acts as the focal point within the UN Secretariat for all matters related to the consultative relationship between the UN and NGOs.

Informal Regional Networks

Eight Informal Regional Networks (IRENEs) have/are being formed around the world within ECOSOC to help NGOs focus on the achievement of goals set by the global community. These goals are known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Millennium Development Goals

By 2015 all 189 UN Member States have pledged to:

- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
 - Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar per day
 - Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
- 2. Achieve universal primary education**
 - Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling
- 3. Promote gender equality and empower women**
 - Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015
- 4. Reduce child mortality**
 - Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five
- 5. Improve maternal health**
 - Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality rate
- 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
 - Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
 - Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability**
 - Integrate the principals of sustainable development into country policies; reverse loss of environmental resources
 - Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
 - Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020
- 8. Develop a global partnership for development**

Hope for the Nations supports the Millennium Development Goals and is already working in many of the identified areas around the world.

Hope for the Nations and the United Nations

Hope for the Nations has been asked to be the coordinating NGO for the Canada region with the possibility of eventually coordinating the North America region.

The coordinating position is a self-supported role that will act as the liaison between the NGO wing of ECOSOC and the Canadian NGOs with Special Consultative Status.

Every year ECOSOC meets (alternating between New York and Geneva) to discuss a theme at the High Level Segment of its substantive session. The topic for 2004 is:

**‘Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication
in the context of the implementation of the programme of action for the Least
Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010’**

The role for HFTN will be to facilitate a Canadian NGO response to be presented to the High Level Segment at the session in July 2004.

HOPE FOR THE NATIONS
'AT A GLANCE'

INTRODUCTION: A CALL TO ASSIST 'CHILDREN AT RISK'

Hope for the Nations (HFTN) is a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) registered with the Canadian, American and British governments.

- Based out of Kelowna and operated by a predominately volunteer staff.
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) approved.
- A "NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations".
- Presently working in 20 nations (not including Canada, UK & USA).
- An entrepreneur-based society which blends a strategy of children's homes (security), micro-enterprise (self-sustainability) and education (capacity).
- A "values" based NGO with a track record of integrity, efficiency and high impact for the dollars used.
- **A full 100% of all donations go to the designated project. Of 'general' donations only 15% is held for administration costs and this is only with the donors permission. Remaining administration costs are covered by specifically designated support.**
- Operational travel costs are covered by each individual e.g. Directors, and others, visiting or working at the projects. **HFTN is all about volunteerism.**
- Hope for the Nations targets:
 - 'war-affected' regions (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Congo) where we have schools, healthcare, agriculture, foster care homes, micro-enterprise and training centres.
 - children of the sex trade (Thailand, Nepal, Burma)
 - children of the streets and poverty (Haiti, Indonesia, Philippines, India, Mexico, Russia, Ghana, Kenya).
 - children affected by HIV/AIDS (Romania, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Swaziland & Thailand)

OUR VISION

Hope for the Nations is about ‘children at risk’. Our long-term vision is to see these children transformed by providing the basic necessities of love, healthcare, education, a healthy community and self-sufficiency. We want to make a difference by starting the process of change.

We aim to:

- Change the future of Children at Risk
- Change the lives of the children in our Homes
- Change society’s treatment of Children at Risk
- Change the world by shaping Today’s Orphans into Tomorrow’s Leaders

OUR FOCUS

Hope for the Nations is, and always will be, about children. Our focus is set squarely on the issue of Children at Risk.

In agreement with the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of a Child, we affirm that all children have the right to:

- Love and Security
- Food
- Survival and Development
- Parental Care
- A Decent Place to Live
- Health and Health Services
- Protection From Abuse
- Education
- Rest and Leisure

OUR OBJECTIVES

Hope for the Nations will fulfill its motto **“Today’s Orphans...Tomorrow’s Leaders”** by achieving our three objectives:

Children’s Homes (Security)

- Provide community development that will benefit all members of the community because developing productive members of society, will help impact that society for the greater good.
- We will do this through ‘Children's Homes’.

Education (Capacity)

- Provide a family structure that includes parental care and formal education.
- Actively train the children to become productive members of society and to be leaders in that society.

Micro Enterprise (Sustainability)

- We will work to establish micro-enterprise business models that allow for self-sufficiency of both the Home and the children as they mature and enter society as adults.
- Provide the workers and the children with a sense of accomplishment and self-worth. We do not want them to always be looking to the West as their source of income or their basis for identity.

OUR STRATEGY

“Coalition” -- Hope for the Nations believes that the only way to tackle the daunting problems facing today's developing nations is through coalition and partnership. Our strategy is to align ourselves with nationals who already want to do the work but do not have the ability or the means to carry it out. The coalition will have the following components:

- LEADERSHIP to oversee, guide and direct the entire process.
- MINISTRIES who will facilitate the operation of the children's homes.
- ENTREPRENEURS who fuel the project through expertise, labor or finances.
- COOPERATION among coalition members to accomplish the common task.
- COMMITMENT to meeting the short-term needs and ensuring the longevity of each individual project.
- NATIONAL PARTICIPATION by leaders who share our vision and commitment.